

Serial No.: 09/989,845
Art Unit: 3679

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) In a barrier comprised of at least one longitudinally extending railing supportably fastened to vertically extending posts, the improvement in such barrier which comprises:

at least one longitudinally extending railing having at least one generally T-shaped channel extending in the longitudinal direction of said railing;

vertically extending posts having an elongated body and having at least two flange segments extending outwardly in opposite direction and having at least one perforation in each flange segment; and

fastening means slidably embraced within said T-shaped channel and extending through the perforation in said flange segment and thereby fastened to said vertical post to provide a variably select ~~elevation of~~ post position along said longitudinally extending railing.

2. (Previously Amended) The barrier of Claim 1 wherein the T-shaped channel has an inwardly extending tab at the end of each leg of said T-shaped channel.

Serial No.: 09/989,845
Art Unit: 3679

3. (Previously Amended) The barrier of Claim 2 wherein the railing has at least two T-shaped channels.

4. (Currently Amended) The barrier of Claim 1 wherein ~~each~~ said longitudinally extending railing has a T-shaped ~~slot~~ channel.

5. (Original) The barrier of Claim 4 wherein the flange segments extend at a 180 degrees angle to each other.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Amended) The barrier of Claim 4 wherein the railing and vertical posts are formed from aluminum by an extrusion process.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a barrier having at least one longitudinally extending railing supportably fastened to vertically extending posts, comprising:

providing at least one longitudinally extending railing having at least one generally T-shaped channel extending in the longitudinal direction of said railing;

providing vertically extending posts having an elongated body and having at least two flange segments extending outwardly

Serial No.: 09/989,845

Art Unit: 3679

in opposite direction and having at least one perforation in each flange segment;

slidably fastening to said vertical post said T-shaped channel and through a perforation in said flange segment; and

providing a variably select ~~elevation of~~ post position along said longitudinally extending railing.

9. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 8 wherein the T-shaped channel has an inwardly extending tab at the end of each leg of said T-shaped channel.

10. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 9 wherein the railing has at least two T-shaped channels.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 8 wherein ~~each~~ said longitudinally extending railing has a T-shaped ~~slot~~ channel.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the flange segments extend at a 180 degrees angle to each other.

13. (Cancelled)

Serial No.: 09/989,845

Art Unit: 3679

14. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 10 wherein the railing and vertical posts are formed from aluminum by an extrusion process.

15. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 11 wherein the railing and vertical posts are formed from aluminum by an extrusion process.

16. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 12 wherein the railing and vertical posts are formed from aluminum by an extrusion process.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus, comprising:

a barrier having at least one longitudinally extending railing supportably fastened to vertically extending posts;

at least one longitudinally extending railing having at least one generally T-shaped channel extending in the longitudinal direction of said railing;

the vertically extending posts having an elongated body and having at least two flange segments extending outwardly in opposite direction and having at least one perforation in each flange segment; and

Serial No.: 09/989,845
Art Unit: 3679

fastening means slidably embraced within said T-shaped [or U-shaped] channel and extending through the perforation in said flange segment and thereby fastened to said vertical post to provide a variably select ~~elevation of~~ post position along said longitudinally extending railing.

19. (Previously Amended) Apparatus as set forth in Claim 18 wherein the T-shaped channel has an inwardly extending tab at the end of each leg of said T-shaped channel.

20. (Previously Amended) Apparatus as set forth in Claim 18 wherein the railing has at least two T-shaped channels.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as set forth in Claim 19 wherein each longitudinally extending railing has a T-shaped ~~slot~~ channel.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as set forth in Claim ~~23~~ 18 wherein the railing and vertical posts are formed from aluminum by an extrusion process.

Please cancel Claim 21 without prejudice.